(b) whether the rates of International STD calls also have been reduced; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negetive, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. STD calls will not be having three tier tariff. Normal STD tariff between 8 AM to 7 PM. fifty per cent of normal STD tariff between 7 PM to 10 PM and 6 AM to 8 AM and nearly twenty five percent of the normal tariff between 10 PM to 6 AM. On Sundays and National Holidays, STD calls will be charged fifty percent of the normal rate from 6 AM to 10 PM and nearly 25 percent of the normal charges for the rest of the period at night.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The main intention in reducing tariff during night hours is to utilise the circuits during the slack period. This does not apply to international circuits as they operate between different time zones.

Implementation of voluntary retirement scheme by the public sector undertakings

125. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 155 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 1988 and state;

(a) what are the names of the undertakings which have decided to implement the voluntary retirement scheme;

(b) what is the total number of employees who have so for opted for this scheme in each undertaking and how many have since retired; and

(c) what is the period by which the scheme is expected to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) According to the information available in the Bureau from 168 public enterprises, 8141 employees availed of the benefits under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme formulated by the 27 public enterprises on their own and 715 employees availed of the benefits in 11 public enterprises under the scheme notified by the Bureau on 5-10-1988. 130 public enterprises reported nil information.

(c) No specific period of validity has been prescribed for this Voluntary retirement Scheme.

Waiting list for LPG connection in Tamil Nadu

126. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for LPG connections are presently on the waiting list in Tamil Nadu, districtwise and yearwise;

(b) how many towns are presently provided with LPG supply in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) how many more towns will be brought under LPG supply scheme in the near future in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The information is given in the Statement (*See* below).